Committee constituted under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

Issues of SSIs

2223. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the major issues of Small Scale Industries under the category of credit, technology, infrastructure, marketing and institutional support;

(b) the Macro level approaches needed to tackle above said issues;

(c) to what extent such approaches have succeeded to solve the problems; and

(d) the steps taken to have a complete solution?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The major concerns aired by the small scale industries (SSI) from time to time in respect of credit, technology, infrastructure, marketing and institutional support, include, *inter alia,* inadequate availability and high cost of credit, technology obsolescence, inability to access better and new technologies, poor infrastructure, constraints in access to both domestic and international markets and lack of institutional support.

(b) Although the State Governments/Union Territory administrations are primarily responsible for the promotion and development of small scale industries, the Central Government has put in place a number of policy initiatives and implements various schemes/programme to assist the SSI to overcome inadequacies listed in the reply to part *(2)* of this question.

(c) Among other things, the policy initiatives, schemes and programmes referred to in the reply to part (b) above, have helped the SSI register consistent growth, both in terms of number of units and employment, in the last five years.

(d) The Central Government is responsive to the changing needs of the small scale sector and implements schemes/programmes to resolve various problems faced by this sector from time-to-time.